

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 18, 2004, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claim 14 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 14-19 are presently pending in the application, and respectfully are submitted for consideration.

Claims 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,153,909 (*Beckle et al.*). The Office Action took the position that *Beckle* taught all the features of independent claim 14, with the exception of "saving service parameters given by the first process in the service request." The Office Action then took the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that "in any communications network or multiprocessor systems environment there are always communications between processes, and in order to provide the service refresh or keep alive protocol messages, the service parameters need to be saved." Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference does not disclose or suggest all the features of any of the presently pending claims.

Claim 14, upon which claims 15-19 are dependent, presently recites a procedure for interprocess data transfer in a telephone exchange system in which processes transmit messages between themselves in order to provide services between processes and in which a first process requests a service from a second process. Based on the request, the

second process starts providing the service to the first process and terminates the service when a predetermined condition is fulfilled. The procedure includes receiving with the second process from the first process a service request comprising service parameters and a notification that the requested service concerns a service to be refreshed. The procedure also includes saving, with the second process, the service parameters. The procedure also includes receiving with the second process from the first process a service refresh request without any service parameters, the service refresh request relating to the previously requested service. The procedure also includes refreshing the service in accordance with the service refresh request and the saved parameters when the first process wishes the service to be continued or reactivated.

As discussed in the specification, examples of the present invention describe the second process receiving a service request including service parameters from the first process. This feature enables the presentation of a new procedure for the management of services. A service request may remain valid until a certain termination criterion is met. Thus, examples of the present invention enable the avoidance of restarting the service and sending service parameters repeatedly to improve the management of services. It is respectfully submitted that the cited reference of *Beckle* fails to disclose or suggest all the features of any of the presently pending claims. Therefore, *Beckle* fails to provide the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above.

Beckle relates to resource control and data handling for central office based automatic call distributors. An automatic call distributor (ACD) system arrangement

provides resource control and call event data processing services for a plurality of ACD systems. According to *Beckle*, a special event and control link processor (ECL) provides end-user call event data processing services and end-user resource control to one or more management information system (MIS) data processors. The ECL receives, partitions, and transmits call event messages to one of the MIS processors, and screens resource control messages from the MIS processors. A message is sent using an interface arrangement between the ECL and the recipient MIS processor, that establishes a virtual link therebetween, and periodically executes a hand shaking protocol over that link for ensuring that the link is still operational.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2 of *Beckle*, event link control process 1450 uses a "heartbeat" hand shaking protocol to monitor the status of event message links. This protocol uses heartbeat/keep alive messages to verify communication paths between ECL 1000 and SM 2500 and MIS processors 3000, 3100 and 3200. If an originator fails to receive a return heartbeat message 15000 from a receiver, the originator initiates data link recovery actions. After links are established, *Beckle* sets timers that trigger the transmission of keep alive messages if no other messages are transmitted on the links between the ECL and each active MIS processor during an interval determined by the timer. *Beckle*, however, does not disclose or suggest the feature of receiving with the second process from the first process a service request comprising service parameters and a notification that the request of service concerns a service to be refreshed and refreshing

the service in accordance with the service refresh request and the saved parameters when the first process wishes the services to be continued or reactivated.

In contrast, claim 14 recites "receiving with the second process from the first process a service request comprising service parameters and a notification that the requested service concerns a service to be refreshed" and "refreshing the service in accordance with the service refresh request and the saved parameters when the first process wishes the service to be continued or reactivated." Applicant submits that *Beckle* does not disclose or suggest at least these features of the presently pending claims. Therefore, claims 14-19 are not rendered obvious in view of *Beckle*.

Applicant submits that the CPC and ECL along with the MIS processors of *Beckle* do not disclose or suggest a second process and a first process, as recited in the claims. As noted above, the ECL sends call event data messages to the MIS processors. The call event data message includes the address of the recipient MIS processor. This aspect of *Beckle*, however, does not disclose or suggest receiving with the second process from the first process, a service request including service parameters and a notification that the requested service concerns a service to be refreshed. The address of the recipient MIS processor also does not disclose or suggest service parameters because service parameters, as recited in the claims, refer to a service itself, as opposed to a process, or address, providing the service as described in *Beckle*.

Applicant also submits that *Beckle* does not disclose or suggest refreshing the service when the first process wishes the service to be continued or reactivated. *Beckle*

describes using a keep alive protocol that is used to monitor the status of event message links between the EPC and the MIS processors. This protocol of *Beckle* uses heartbeat messages to verify communication paths, or links, between the ECL and MIS processors. Applicant submits that the heartbeat messages do not refresh any service, and thus, the keep alive protocol of *Beckle* does not disclose or suggest refreshing the service in accordance with the service refresh request and the saved parameters when the first process wishes the service to be continued or reactivated.

Further, because *Beckle* does not disclose or suggest service parameters, as recited in the claims, *Beckle* also does not disclose or suggest saving service parameters given by the first process in the service request. The Office Action acknowledges that *Beckle* does not disclose or suggest this feature, but that it would have been obvious to save the service parameters. Applicant submits that because *Beckle* does not disclose or suggest service parameters, then *Beckle* cannot disclose or suggest saving the service parameters. As noted above, the address of the recipient MIS processor does not disclose or suggest the feature of service parameters. Therefore, applicant submits that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to modify *Beckle* to save service parameters, as recited in the claims.

Thus, *Beckle* does not disclose or suggest all the features of the presently pending claims. Further, *Beckle* does not disclose or suggest all the features of any of the dependent claims in addition to the features recited in the independent claims, at least for

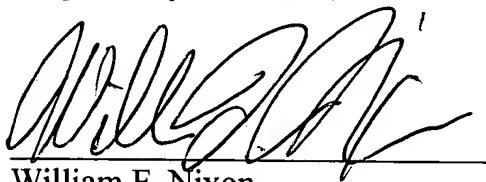
the reasons given above. Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection of claims 14-19 be withdrawn.

It is further submitted that each of claims 14-19 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 14-19 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William F. Nixon', is written over a horizontal line.

William F. Nixon

Registration No. 44,262

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

WFN:cct